

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the subject application. Applicants enclosed an IDS form citing the reference to the Internet Enforcement Task Force's "Internet-Drafts Database Interface." The Applicants enclosed with this response only the first page and the 101st page of this 208 page reference since these are the only pages of the reference needed to show the submission date of Song, et al.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 2, 8-9, 13, 18, 24-25, and 35-36 have been objected to because of various informalities. Applicants amended claims 1-7, 10, 13, 17, 21, 26-31, 34, and 37 to properly define the acronyms used in these claims. The amendments to the claims were to clarify the acronyms already present in the claims and not intended to narrow the scope of the original claims.

Claim 13

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for pointing out the typographical error in claim 13. Applicants amended claim 13 to correct the typographical error. The claim inherently referred to the forwarding engine to receive a multicast packet, thus allowing one to realize that "control" in the phrase the control engine to receive a multicast packet was a typographical error. As such, the amendment was to clarify the claim and not intended to narrow the scope of the original claim.

Claims 2, 8, 9, 18, 24, 25, 35, and 36

The Examiner is correct that in a strict sense an address is not a channel. Applicants respectfully submit that the phrases, a multicast channel is an Ethernet Media Access Control address and a multicast channel is an IP address, are used in a broader sense as supported by the specification. For example, the multicast channel is identified by, defined by, and distinguished by an address, but the phrase also connotes a meaning in line with a host listening to a multicast channel. In the case of a host listening to a multicast channel the channel may actually be an IP or MAC address. (See for example but not limitation Application, paras. [0014], [0015]). Therefore, to encompass the broader usage of the phrases as supported in the specification, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner allow the phrases in claims 2, 8, 9, 18, 24, 25, 35, and 36 to remain as originally written.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Song, et al. "IP Multicasting and Broadcasting for PPPoE Protocol", Network Working Group, Internet Draft, August 2001 ("Song").

Applicants respectfully draw Examiner's attention to Applicant's declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 mailed March 7, 2002. In the declaration, the Applicants declare that prior to August 22, 2001, the Applicants conceived and reduced to practice the present invention. As evidenced by the enclosed IDS and copy of the IETF "Internet-Drafts Database Interface," August 22, 2001 is the date the Song reference was submitted to the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Absent

contrary evidence that the effective date of Song is prior to August 22, 2001,
Applicants respectfully submits the rejections have been overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 11-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being
unpatentable using Song as the primary reference.

Applicants respectfully draw Examiner's attention to Applicant's declaration
under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 mailed March 7, 2002. In the declaration, the Applicants
declare that prior to August 22, 2001, the Applicants conceived and reduced to
practice the present invention. As evidenced by the enclosed IDS and copy of the
IETF "Internet-Drafts Database Interface," August 22, 2001 is the date the Song
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Applicants respectfully submits the rejections have been overcome.

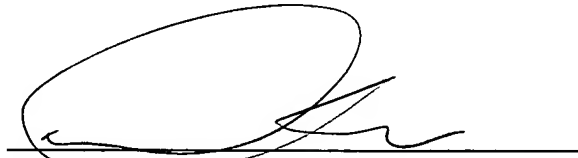
Conclusion

If the allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300. If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Daniel M. De Vos

Registration No. 37,813

Customer No. 08791
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030
(408) 720-8300